

REMARKS

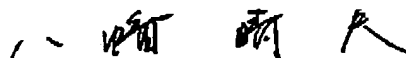
A Notice of Allowance has been received in the above-identified application but ~~the~~ issue fee has not, as of yet, been paid. Applicants hereby respectfully request that on recommendation of the Examiner and approval by the Commissioner that the amendments to the claims be entered.

Claims 1-21, and 23-25 are now pending in the application. Claim 22 has been canceled herein without prejudice.

Since the cancellation of claim 22 does not affect the patentability and the scope of other claims, it is respectfully submitted that no additional search or examination is required. The above-identified amendment was not presented earlier because Applicants did not fully appreciate the substantial overlap with broader independent claim 16 until reviewing the allowed claims.

Should the Examiner have any concerns regarding the claim amendments, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP



Haruo Yawata
Limited Recognition under 37 CFR § 10.9(b)

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Expires: January 2, 2007



Harry I. Moatz

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